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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /063 W
----------191654Z 127309 /40
R 182228Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6761
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1138

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CS
SUBJECT: FACIO DENIES REPORT THAT COSTA RICA AND COLOMBIA WOULD
GUARANTEE CANAL NEUTRALITY

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ACCORDING TO NEWS ACCOUNTS CARRIED HERE, FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO HAS DENIED PRESS REPORTS, APPARENTLY ORIGINATING IN PANAMA, WHICH ALLEGED THAT COSTA RICA AND COLOMBIA HAD ACCEPTED A U.S. PROPOSAL THAT THEY BE CO-GUARANTORS OF THE NEUTRALITY OF THE PANAMA CANAL FMZLOWING THE TURNOVER OF THE CANAIITO PANAMA IN ACCORDANCE WITH A NEW CANAL TREATY. IN REMARKS MARCH 17 TO REPORTERS COVERING THE VISIT OF COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSEN, FACIO DECLARED, AS REPORTED IN EXCELSIOR: "AT NO TIME DID I STATE THAT COLOMBIA AND COSTUHRICA WERE, OR HAD BEEN OFFERED AS SUCH, CONFIDENTIAL

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OR WOULD BE GUARANTORS OF THE NEUTRALITY OF THE PANAMA CANAL." HE ADDED: "NEITHER HAVE WE RE-CEIVED ANY PROPOSITION FROM THE UNITED STATES NOR PANAMA, NOR HAVE WE PROPOSED, NOR LOOK TO BE GUARANTORS OF THE NEUTRALITY OF THE PANAMA CANAL".

2. FACIO STATED THAT WHAT HE HAD SAID WAS:

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"COSTA RICA AND COLOMBIA HAVE A DIRECT INTEREST IN CANAL RESOLUTION, NOT ONLY DUE TO A SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY FOR PANAMA'S JUST CAUSE, BUT ALSO BE-CAUSE PANAMA HAD AGREED TO GIVE OUR TWO NATIONS TRANSIT THROUGH THE CANAL FOR ITS PRODUCTSS UVS MAILS, AND ITS MILITARY STORES." FACIO ADDED: "WE (COLOMBIA AND COSTA RICA) HAVE AN INTEREST, ALSO DIRECT, IN AN ADEQUATE SOLUTION TO THE DIFFERENCES RE THE CANAL BETWEEN THE U.S. AND PUOEMA..."
BEGIN CLASSIFIED

3. COMMENT: PRO-GOVERNMENT EXCELSIOR FOUR WEEKS AGO FLOATED A TJIAL BALLOON RE A COSTA RICAN/ COLOMBIAN ROLE IN GUARANTEEING CANAL NEUTRALITY. THIS EMBASSY SPECULATED AT THAT TIME THAT FACIO COULD WELL HAVE BEEN THE SOURCE. (SAN JOSENTUPQLM WE STILL SUSPECT THAT HE MAY HAVE INSPIRED THAT EDITORIAL. AT SAME TIME, WE ARE UNAWARE OF FACIO EVER HAVING VOICED THIS IDEA PUBLICLY. THE STRENGTH OF FACIO'S DENIAL IN THIS REGARD IS NOTEWORTH, AND LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT HE IS PULLING DOWN A TRIAL BALLOOM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, SECURITY, ALLEGATIONS, CANALS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 3065380
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